

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for collecting location-specific ~~dependent~~ data from geographically dispersed remote monitoring stations situated at fixed geographic locations in a central data collection point, said method comprising:

a monitoring station detecting information regarding ambient conditions at a fixed location at which it is situated;

said monitoring station wirelessly transmitting location-specific ~~dependent data from an external data source~~ indicative of said information;

receiving the location-specific ~~dependent~~ data in a mobile telephone which is in a standby mode and is carried by a passing user;

said mobile telephone transmitting the location-specific ~~dependent~~ data to a base station of the mobile telephone; and

said base station communicating the location-specific dependent data along with a location identifier to the data collection point.

Claim 2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the location identifier is added to the data by the base station.

Claim 3. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the location identifier is included in the data collected from the data source and transmitted to the base station.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the location identifier is supplied by a location-aware component within the mobile telephone.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein:

the mobile telephone incorporates an environmental sensor as the data source; and

said sensor provides information relating to environmental conditions in an immediate locality of the mobile telephone.

Claim 6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 wherein the environmental sensor provides information representing at least one of: temperature, air pressure, humidity, radiation, air contaminant levels, acoustic noise, magnetic fields, electromagnetic and/or radio signal levels, light levels, pollen count, pheromone levels.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein:

the transmitted data comprises an identifier identifying the mobile telephone, sent with the location identifier; and

the data are used to determine the position and speed of motion of the portable communications device.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7 wherein:

mobile telephone is carried in a vehicle; and

collected data are used to derive location, speed and direction information relating to that vehicle.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein data collected from numerous mobile telephones carried in respective vehicles is used to derive average speed and direction information relating to traffic in a certain location.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the derived speed and direction data are used to control traffic in the respective location.

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the external data source transmits the data by very short range radio transmission.

Claim 13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein the data transmitted by the very short range radio transmission comprises information relating to meter readings.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 11, in which the transmitted data incorporates an identifier identifying the transmitter, which is used as the location identifier.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the location aware component is a GPS receiver built in to the portable communications device.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the data are communicated to the data collection point over a telephone network.

Claim 18. (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) A portable communications device for use in a method according to claim 5, comprising:

a power source;

an environmental sensor for detecting environmental conditions in the locality of the device, and for providing corresponding data to communications circuitry; and

communications circuitry for transmitting the data to a base station.

Claim 20. (Original) A device according to claim 19 wherein the environmental sensor provides information representing at least one of: temperature, air pressure, humidity, radiation, air contaminant levels, acoustic noise, magnetic fields, electromagnetic and/or radio signal levels, light levels pollen count, pheromone levels.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) A mobile telephone for use in a method according to claim 12, comprising:

a power source;

a receiver for receiving data from an external data source, and for providing corresponding data to communications circuitry; and

communications circuitry for transmitting the data to a base station.

Claim 22. (Cancelled)

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising storing collected data in a memory of the mobile telephone before transmitting it to the base station.